GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:79
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
EXTENSION OF TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give more attention to extend the telecom services intensively in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent for this purpose during the current financial year;

(d) whether many private telecom companies have come forward to make investments in rural areas in the field of Telecom Sector particularly in the Mobile Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 79 FOR 3RD MARCH, 2008 REGARDING `EXTENSION OF TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS`.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In order to give more attention to telecom services in rural areas, Government has undertaken the following schemes:-

(i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 uncovered villages under Bharat Nirman through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund(USOF).

(ii) Setting up of 7871 Sharable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from USOF (Phase-1).

(iii) Second Phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,049 additional tower to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas of the country is likely to be launched shortly.

(iv) For creation of general infrastructure for development of telephone facilities,Government has proposed to improve the OFC network between the Block Headquarters and District Headquarters.

(v) Subsidy support through USOF for Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDEL).

(c) An amount of Rs. 1450 crore is likely to be spent for this purpose during the current financial year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details of private sector companies, which have come forward for making investment in rural and remote areas in the field of telecom sector particularly in the mobile sector under USO Fund scheme of shared infrastructure, are given in the Annexure.